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PRESTATYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

Acting upon instructions Circular 2067 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health my Report for the year 1939 is to be considered an interim one only, and in view of the increasing pressure of work in the Public Health Department, and the need for strict economy in paper, it has been considerably modified.

Several acute problems have arisen during the latter part of the year in the public health administration of the area. In particular, I refer to the advent of troops and evacuees. Great care has to be exercised in watching for any possible source of infection or contagion, and, owing to the influx of population, such conditions will have a tendency to increase, and consequently a severe strain will be imposed on the Public Utility Services of the area.

It became evident that the first of these services requiring immediate attention was the water supply, with the result that additional filtering units were at once installed. If the necessity arises, further units will have to be added, and I urge upon my Council to bear in mind the importance of maintaining the Filtering Plant so that it will be of sufficient capacity to cope with any emergency which may arise.

The sewage system of the district has been heavily taxed, and in most of the area is working to full capacity. Fortunately, the Council have recently added additional pumping plant as part of the Main Sewerage Scheme for the North West area which is now almost completed. Otherwise, if this scheme had not been undertaken, and as conditions are today, the position would have been a most serious one. I am glad to say that for the past year the health of the district in my opinion has been most satisfactory. There has been a marked decline in the infectious diseases notified. The arrival of evacuated children into the district introduced some few cases of impetigo and scabies. The children were segregated on arrival and received immediate attention.

At this stage I should like to place on record my sincere appreciation of the very effective and willing help rendered by several of the local organisations, in receiving and dealing with the evacuated children. Also not forgetting the ready response of the householders in providing accommodation.

I must once again express the earnest hope that the Clwyd Catchment Board will complete the work they have commenced in dealing with the efficient drainage, and in cleaning the Watercourses in the area.

As regards public cleansing, the heavy calls on the House Refuse Collection Department, especially salvage, calls for additional plant being provided at an early date.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Social Conditions of the Area.

Arpa (in acres)	3655
Population (Census 1921)	4083
" " 1931	4511
Registrar General's Estimate 1939	6980
Estimated number of inhabited houses (1921)	770
" " " (1931)	1500
" " " (1933)	1590
" " " (1939)	2715
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	887
" " " (1931)	1700
" " " (1933)	1760
" " " (1939)	2927
Rateable value	£68,237
Sum represented by a ld. rate	£281

	M	F	Total
Births (Legitimate)	35	28	
(Illegitimate)	1	2	66

Deaths

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:
 from sepsis - nil.
 " other causes - nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age: 5
 Legitimate - 5. Illegitimate - 0 Total 5

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - nil.
 " " Whooping Cough (all ages) - nil.
 " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) - nil.
 " " Ophthalmia Neonatorum - nil.
 " " Cancer 23

Death Rate.

In the year 1939 the estimated population as given by the Registrar General is 6980. It is upon these figures that I have to estimate Birth Rates, and for Death Rates the figure is 7422.

The number of deaths actually registered in the area was 93, giving a rate of 12.53

Seventeen deaths of residents took place outside the area, whilst 3 deaths occurred in the area of non-residents, giving a net rate for the year of 14.41 as compared with 14.45 for the previous year.

The general death rate for England and Wales for the year 1939 is 12.1

Births.

The number of births registered was 66, thirty-six males and thirty females. Illegitimate males 1, females 2, giving a rate per thousand population of 9.45

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was five.

Still Births.

Total - Male Legitimate - Female Legitimate -
 Illegitimate -

The general provision of Health Services for the area are the same as in previous years and do not call for comment.

Cemetery.

There have been 40 internments in Cook Bell Cemetery during 1939, as compared with 32 in 1938.

Protestants - 38
Catholics - 2

J. L. Pitts

Medical Officer of Health.

